

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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1. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising a lockable, removable cassette for a banknote processor, the cassette having a single wall construction comprising [ : ] a plastic shell, ~~having a single wall construction~~; and a currency access door connected to the shell.
  2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the cassette is at least one of a Nylon material, a PPO material, a Polypropylene material, a Polycarbonate material, an ABS material, and a Polyester material.
  3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the cassette is made from a Polycarbonate and ABS blended material.
  4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the walls are formed by at least one of Gas Assist Injection Molding, blow molding, rotational molding, Reaction Injection Molding and co-injection of two polymers.
  5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the shell is combined with a reinforcing material.
  6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the reinforcing material is at least one of a rigid material to impart strength and a soft material to improve shock absorption.
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7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the shell is combined with a resilient material.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the plastic shell comprises a first cassette portion and a second cassette portion joined together by a welding process.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising at least one of a flexible handle and an integrated grip.

10. (Currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising~~ An apparatus comprising a lockable, removable cassette for a banknote processor, the cassette having a single wall construction and comprising a plastic shell, a currency access door connected to the shell, and at least one of an aperture and a transparent window located to allow visual inspection of a document stored in the cassette.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising an internal mechanism that is at least partially transparent.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 1~~ wherein transport of documents in the apparatus is achieved primarily by rotating rollers formed by a two-shot injection molding process, wherein the rotating rollers comprise an inner core made from a rigid plastic and an outer tire made from a flexible material.

11/15. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 comprising a hinge pin to secure the access door to the plastic shell, wherein the currency access door remains secure even if the a hinge pin is removed.

12/16. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 15 comprising a plurality of hinge pins to secure the access door to the plastic shell, wherein the currency access door remains secure even if the a plurality of hinge pins are removed.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

16/16. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising a lockable removable cassette comprising:

a guide means to guide the cassette during installation; and

a latch means for engagement during installation;

wherein if the cassette is not securely latched during installation, then a biasing means moves the cassette.

17/16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 further comprising at least one of a flexible handle and an integrated grip.

18/16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein an unsecured cassette interferes with an access door of a host machine.

19/16. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 15 further comprising at least one of an aperture and a transparent window located to allow visual inspection of a document stored in the cassette.

~~20~~<sup>16</sup>23. (Original) The apparatus of claim ~~19~~<sup>16</sup> further comprising a stacker mechanism.

~~21~~<sup>20</sup>24. (Original) The apparatus of claim ~~23~~<sup>20</sup> wherein the stacker mechanism comprises:  
a stacker plate; and  
a drive means coupled to the stacker plate, wherein the drive means includes non-circular drive gears.

~~23~~<sup>23</sup>25. (Original) A lockable removable cassette comprising:  
at least one guide;  
at least one lug; and  
at least one ramp;  
wherein when the cassette is loaded into a chassis the guide mates with a chassis guide,  
the lug mates with a bias means and the ramp mates with a latch means such that if the cassette is  
improperly loaded then the bias means moves the cassette away from the chassis.

~~24~~<sup>23</sup>26. (Original) The apparatus of claim ~~25~~<sup>23</sup> further comprising at least one of a flexible handle  
and an integrated grip.

~~25~~<sup>23</sup>27. (Original) The apparatus of claim ~~25~~<sup>23</sup> wherein a failure to securely latch the cassette to  
the chassis generates a mechanical interference with a door of a host machine.

~~26~~<sup>23</sup>28. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~28~~<sup>23</sup> further comprising at least one of an  
aperture and a transparent window located to allow visual inspection of a document stored in the  
cassette.

~~27~~<sup>23</sup>29. (Original) The apparatus of claim ~~25~~<sup>23</sup> further comprising a stacker mechanism.

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28<sup>27</sup> (Original) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the stacker mechanism comprises:  
a stacker plate; and  
a drive means coupled to the stacker plate, wherein the drive means includes non-circular drive gears.

29<sup>31</sup> (Original) A method comprising:  
aligning guide means of a lockable removable cassette with a chassis guide means; and  
pushing the lockable removable cassette with force sufficient to overcome the resistance of a biasing means to secure the cassette.

30<sup>32</sup> (Original) The method of claim 31 wherein if insufficient force is applied then the biasing means moves the lockable removable cassette away from the chassis.

31<sup>33</sup> (Original) The method of claim 32 wherein an unsecured cassette interferes with the closing of an access door of a host machine.

32<sup>34</sup> (Currently amended) The method of claim 31 further comprising observing ~~the contents~~ a document stored in the cassette through at least one of an aperture and a transparent window.

33<sup>35</sup> (Original) The method of claim 31 further comprising removing the lockable removable cassette by exerting a pull force sufficient to overcome a retention force.

34<sup>36</sup> (Currently amended) A document processing system comprising:  
a chassis;  
a lockable removable cassette;  
a latching means to secure the cassette; and  
a biasing means;

wherein if the cassette is not securely latched to the chassis then the biasing means moves the cassette.

35/31. (Currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim ~~36~~<sup>34</sup> further comprising a banknote validator.

36/38. (Currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim ~~38~~<sup>34</sup> further comprising a stacker mechanism.

37/39. (Currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim ~~38~~<sup>36</sup> wherein the stacker mechanism comprises:

a stacker plate; and

a drive means coupled to the stacker plate, wherein the drive means includes non-circular drive gears.

38/40. (Currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim ~~38~~<sup>36</sup> further comprising a single sensor that detects the installation of the lockable removable cassette and at least a home position of the stacker mechanism.

39/41. (Currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim ~~40~~<sup>38</sup> wherein the sensor includes a light source, a light path means and a receiver.

40/42. (Currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim ~~41~~<sup>39</sup> wherein the light path means comprises a light pipe having at least an input port, an interrupt portion ~~position~~ and an output port.

41/43. (Currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim ~~42~~<sup>40</sup> wherein at least one interrupt portion is connected to a pusher plate of the stacker.

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43. (Currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ <sup>40</sup> system of claim 42 further comprising a prism.

45. (Withdrawn) A method of constructing a lockable, removable currency cassette comprising:

molding the cassette according to a single walled injection molded design; and  
connecting an access door to the cassette shell.

46. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein the walls of the cassette are joined using a thermoplastic welding technique.

47. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 46 wherein an electromagnetic field is used to provide thermal energy to weld the walls.

48. (Withdrawn) A stacker mechanism comprising:

a stacker plate; and

a drive means coupled to the stacker plate, wherein the drive means includes non-circular drive gears.

49. (Withdrawn) A stacker mechanism comprising:

a stacker plate;

a first scissor arm connected at a first end to the stacker plate;

a second scissor arm connected at a first end to the stacker plate, and pivotally connected to the first scissor arm about a scissor pivot point located approximately at the center of the length of the first scissor arm; and

a link arm for driving the stacker plate, the link arm connected to the first scissor arm at a pivot point located between the scissor pivot point and a second end of the first scissor arm.

~~50.~~ (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 49 further comprising a drive means coupled to the link arm and having non-circular drive gears.

~~15~~ 51. (New) The cassette of claim ~~10~~<sup>13</sup> including at least one of an aperture and transparent window located to allow visual inspection of a most recent document stored in the cassette.

~~22~~ 52. (New) The apparatus of claim ~~19~~<sup>16</sup> wherein if the cassette is not securely latched during installation, then a biasing means moves the cassette in a direction away from an installation direction.

~~43~~ 53. (New) An apparatus for processing documents comprising a front-removable storage cassette wherein the documents are stacked in the cassette from front to rear, with a most recent document stored at the front of the stack.

~~44~~ 54. (New) The apparatus of claim ~~53~~<sup>43</sup> comprising a stacker located at a front end of the cassette.

~~45~~ 55. (New) The apparatus of claim ~~54~~<sup>44</sup> comprising at least one of an aperture and transparent window located to allow visual inspection of a most recent document stored in the cassette.

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